

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
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P 111650Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4136

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 12754

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IT
SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRESIDENT PERTINI'S INAUGURAL MESSAGE

REF: ROME 12683

1. THERE FOLLOWS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF
ITALIAN PRESIDENT PERTINI'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS GIVEN ON JULY 9,
1978.

2. "MORE THAN ONCE, DURING MY TROUBLED LIFE, I FOUND
MYSELF IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND I ALWAYS FACED THEM WITH
A SERENE MIND, KNOWING THET I ALONE WOULD HAVE TO PAY, ALONE
WITH MY POLITICAL FAITH AND MY CONSCIENCE.

"NOW, INSTEAD, I KNOW THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY EVERY
ACT WILL REFLECT ON THE STATE, ON THE ENTIRE NATION.

"HENCE MY DUTIFUL INTENTION TO ABIDE LOYALLY AND
SCRUPULOUSLY BY THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CONSTITUTION
I HAVE TAKEN BEFORE YOU WHO REPRESENT THE SOVEREIGN PEOPLE.

"IT WILL BE MY DUTY TO UPHOLD THE GUARANTEES AND CONSTI-
TUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS.

"I SHALL DEFEND THE UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR NATION,
WITH RESPECT FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND
ALLIANCES, WHICH HAVE BEEN FREELY ENTERED INTO.

"WE MUST PREPARE OUTSELVES TO MAKE ITALY BECOME MORE AND MORE
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PART OF THE BROADER COMMUNITY WHICH WILL BE FORMED BY
EUROPE AS IT APPROACHES UNIFICATION THROUGH THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT THAT WILL BE ELECTED NEXT YEAR BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

"IN MY OPINION, ITALY MUST BE THE BEARER OF PEACE IN THE
WORLD: LET US EMPTY THE ARSENALS OF WAR, WHICH ARE SOURCES OF
DEATH. LET US FILL THE GRANARIES WHICH ARE SOURCES OF LIFE
FOR MILLIONS OF HUMAN CREATURES WHO ARE FIGHTING AGAINST

HUNGER. OUR GENEROUS PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT THEY ARE THE BROTHERS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. HIS IS THE PATH, THE PARTH OF PEACE WHICH WE MUST FOLLOW.

3. "BUT WE MUST WORK IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE HARMONY IN OUR COUNTRY, WHILE ALLOWING THE NECESSARY CIVIL DIALOGUE BETWEEN ALL POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES TO CONTINUE, AS AN EXPRESSION OF TRUE DEMOCRACY.

"I SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT, HOWEVER, WITHOUT EVER GOING BEYOND THE POWERS CONFERRED UPON ME BY THE CONSTITUTION, TO CONSOLIDATE AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY, OF WHICH MY ELECTION IS AN EXPRESSION. THIS UNITY IS NECESSARY AND IF THROUGH SOME MISFORTUNE IT WERE TO BREAK UP, THEN SAD DAYS WOULD BE IN STORE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

"WE MUST NOT FORGET, HONORABLE SENATORS, DEPUTIES, AND REGIONAL DELEGATES, THAT IF OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN ABLE TO RISE FROM THE ABYSS INTO WHICH IT HAD BEEN THROWN BY THE FASCIST DICTATORSHIP AND BY A SENSELESS WAR, THIS WAS ALSO MAINLY DUE TO THE NATIONAL UNITY ACHIEVED AT THAT TIME BY ALL THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES.

"THROUGH THIS UNITY IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE REFORMS THAT THE WORKING CLASSES HAVE BEEN SEEKING FOR YEARS. THIS IS THE PARLIAMENT'S TASK.

4. 3EVERY CITIZEN MUST BE ASSURED OF HAVING A JOB. UNEMPLOYMENT IS A TERRIBLE EVIL THAT CAN LEAD EVEN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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DESPAIR. I CAN TELL YOU THIS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED WHILE I WAS IN EXILE AND HAD TO WORK AS A LABORER IN ORDER TO EARN AN HONEST LIVING. WE MUST BE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THE UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE YOUNG IF WE DO NOT WANT THOUSANDS OF YOUNG JOBLESS PEOPLE TO BECOME OUTCASTS FROM SOCIETY, TO GO ADRIFT IN DESPAIR, TO BECOME THE INSTRUMENTS OF VIOLENT MEN OR VICTIMS OF UNSCRUPULOUS CORRUPTORS.

"WE MUST SOLVE THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN ORDER TO ENABLE EVERY FAMILY TO HAVE A DECENT HOUSE AND FIND THERE A QUIET REST AFTER A DAY OF HARD WORK.

"THE HEALTH OF EACH CITIZEN MUST BE PROTECTED, AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

"THE EDUCATION AREA TOO IS GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF CRISIS WHICH HAS TO BE OVERCOME. EDUCATION MUST REALLY BE UNIVERSAL, WITHIN EVERYBODY'S REACH, TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE RICH IN INTELLIGENCE AND THE WILL TO STUDY BUT POOR IN MEANS.

"ITALY NEEDS TO MOVE FORWARD IN ALL THE FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO BE EQUAL O THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW CIVILIZATION WHICH IS BEGINNING TO APPEAR.

"THE ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER WHICH REFER TO THE TEACHING AND PROMOTION OF CULTURE, OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH, CANN0 BE NEGLECTED.

"THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS WHICH TAKE LOCAL AUTONOMY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE REGIONS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED. THIS HAS RESULTED IN BROAD PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE WHICH MUST BE ENCOURAGED.

5. "WE SAY THIS BECAUSE WE WANT TO STRENGTHEN FREEDOM IN OUR COUNTRY, A FREEDOM REGAINED AFTER A LONG AND HARD STRUGGLE. AND MAY OUR BROTHERLY SOLIDARITY GO TO THOSE WHO, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ARE INQUITOUSLY PERSECUTED FOR THEIR IDEAS.

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...THEIR IDEAS

"OF COURSE, WE HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED FREEDOM A VALUABLE INALIENABLE BLESSING. WE THREW ALL OUR YOUTH INTO THIS STRUGGLE, WITHOUT MINDING HARDSHIPS, TO REGAIN OUR LOST LIBERTY.

"BUT, IF SOMEONE OFFERED ME, WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SOCIALIST, THE MOST RADICAL SOCIAL REFORM AT THE EXPENSE OF FREEDOM, I WOULD REFUSE BECAUSE FREEDOM MUST NEVER BE BARTERED AWAY. HOWEVER, FREEDOM BECOMES A FRAGILE VICTORY ENJOYED ONLY BY A MINORITY IF IT IS NOT CHARACTERIZED BY ITS NATURAL SUBSTANCE WHICH IS SOCIAL JUSTICE. I REPEAT WHAT I SAID ON OTHER OCCASIONS: THE DUAL CONCEPT OF FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IS INSEPARABLE, ONE TERM PRESUPPOSES THE OTHER: THERE CAN BE NO TRUE SOCIAL JUSTICE WITHOUT FREEDOM, JUST AS THERE CAN BE NO TRUE FREEDOM WITHOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE. HENCE THE REFORMS I JUST MENTIONED. AND IT IS ONLY IN THIS WAY THAT EVERY ITALIAN WILL FEEL THAT THE REPUBLIC BELONGS TO HIM, WILL CONSIDER IT AS A MOTHER AND NOT AS A STEPMOTHER. IN OTHER WORDS, THE REPUBLIC MUST BE JUST AND UNCORRUPT, STRONG AND HUMANE, FIRM WITH THE GUILTY, HUMANE WITH THE WEAK AND THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED. THIS IS HOW THOSE WHO FORMED IT AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM AND TWO YEARS OF WAR OF LIBERATION WANTED IT

TO BE AND IF IT WILL BE SO TODAY, EVERY CITIZEN MUST BE
READY TO DEFEND IT AGAINST WHOEVER MIGHT TRY TO THREATEN IT
WITH VIOLENCE.

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"THERE MUST BE NO YIELDING AGAINST THIS VIOLENCE. WE MUST
DEFEND THE REPUBLIC FIRMLY, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. WE ARE
DETERMINED OPPONENTS OF VIOLENCE BECAUSE WE ARE STAUNCH
UPHOLDERS OF DEMOCRACY AND THE LIFE OF EVERY CITIZEN. LET
THERE BE AN END TO THIS VIOLENCE THAT DISTURBS THE
CIVILIZED WAY OF LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF
THIS VIOLENCE EXERTED ALMOST EVERY DAY AGAINST PEACEFUL
CITIZENS AND THE POLICE TO WHICH WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY.

"AND OUR MIND TURNS TO THE DISTRESSING IMAGE OF A VERY
DEAR FRIEND, OF AN HONEST MAN, OF A POLITICIAN ENDOWED
WITH A KEEN INTELLECT AND A VAST CULTURE: ALDO MORO. HOW
MUCH HIS LOSS IS FELT IN HIS PARTY AND IN THIS ASSEMBLY*
IF HE HAD NOT BEEN CRUELLY MURDERED, HE, NOT I, WOULD BE
SPEAKING TO YOU TODAY FROM THIS CHAIR.

"WE FIND COMFORT IN SEEING THAT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE
REACTED PROMPTLY, WITH DEMOCRATIC MODERATION BUT ALSO WITH
FIRM RESOLUTION, TO THESE CRIMINAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE.
FOREIGNERS, WHO OFTEN MISJUDGE THE ITALIANS, SHOULD
TAKE NOTE OF THIS. WHAT OTHER NATION WOULD BE ABLE TO
RESPOND TO AND HOLD OUT AGAINST THE STORM OF VIOLENCE THAT IS
RAGING IN OUR COUNTRY IN THE WAY THE ITALIAN PEOPLE DID AND
WILL CONTINUE TO DO*

6. "SENATORS, DEPUTIES, AND REGIONAL DELEGATES;
I CONVEY MY HEARTFELT WISHES TO THE ARMED FORCES.
ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE ARMED FORCES TODAY HAVE
ONLY ONE VERY NOBLE TASK: DEFEND THE FRONTIERS OF OUR COUNTRY
SHOULD ANYONE TRY TO VIOLATE THEM. WE ARE SURE THAT OUR SOLDIERS
AND OUR OFFICERS WILL VALIANTLY PERFORM THIS NOBLE DUTY.

"I ADDRESS MY RESPECTFUL GREETINGS TO THE MAGISTRACY: FROM
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TO ALL ORDINARY, ADMINISTRATIVE MAGI-
STRATES WHO MUST SHOULDER THE PRECIOUS AND HEAVY BURDEN OF
DEFENDING AND APPLYING THE LAWS OF THE STATE.

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"MY GREETINGS TO THE POLICE. EVERY DAY THEY RISK THEIR
LIVES TO PROTECT OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES. BUT THEY DESERVE
HIGHER APPRECIATION AND A MORE ADEQUATE REMUNERAION.

"A GRATEFUL THOUGHT TO ALL OUR FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN WHO
HONOR ITALY WITH THEIR WORK ABROAD.

" I RENDER HOMAGE TO MY PREDECESSORS FOR THE WORK

THEY HAVE DONE IN THE SUPREME INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.
MY GREETINGS TO SENATOR GIOVANNI LEONE WHO LIVES TODAY IN
BITTER SOLITUDE.

"LASTLY, I WISH TO MENTION THE PATRIOTS WITH WHOM I
SHARED THE JAILS OF THE FASCIST SPECIAL TRIBUNAL, THE DANGERS
OF THE ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE AND THE RESISTANCE. I CANNOT
FAIL TO RECALL THAT MY CONSCIENCE, THE CONSCIENCE OF A FREE
MAN, WAS DEVELOPED IN THE SCHOOL OF THE SAVONA WORKERS'
MOVEMENT AND GREW STRONGER BY FOLLOWING THE ENLIGHTENING
EXAMPLES OFFERED BY GIACOMO MATTEOTTI, GIOVANNI AMENDOLA
AND PIERO GOBETTI, OF CARLO ROSSELLI, DON MINZONI AND ANTONIO
GRAMSCI, MY UNFORGETTABLE PRISON COMRADE.

"I REMEMBER THIS WITH PRIDE, NOT TO REAWAKEN OLD
RESENTMENTS, BECAUSE NOTHING GOOD CAN STEM FROM GRUDGES,
NEITHER IN ETHICS NOR IN POLITICS.

"BUT AS OF TODAY I SHALL NO LONGER BE A PARTY MAN. I
INTEND TO BE ONLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALL THE
ITALIANS, A BROTHER FOR EVERYONE IN OUR LOVE FOR OUR COUNTRY
AND IN OUR CONSTANT ASPIRATION FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

"SENATORS, DEPUTIES, AND REGIONAL DELEGATES;
LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC, LONG LIVE ITALY*"

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